

**Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety**  
**Meeting Minutes Summary**  
**Location: WUTC - Tacoma, WA**  
**June 15, 2004**

**Present**

Chuck Mosher, Chair  
Shirley Olson  
Les Olson  
Richard Kuprewicz  
Duane Henderson  
Carl Weimer  
Don Evans  
Pete Kmet

**Absent**

Pat Morgan  
George Hills  
Ken Thomas  
Grant Jensen

**Public present at the meeting**

Katie Hansen, City of Bellevue/City & County Consortium on Pipeline Safety  
Marianna Archey, Roundtable Associates  
Brad Tower, Olympic Pipeline Company  
Nate Moxley, Community Coalition for Environmental Justice  
Ken Meyer, Citizen  
Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association  
Craig Ward, City of SeaTac  
David Kerr, City of Bellevue  
Alan Rathbun, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission (WUTC)  
Steve King, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
Tim Sweeney, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
Lindsay Marquez, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission

**Agenda**

1. Welcome & adoption of April 20, 2004 Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Report on OPS Controller Certification
4. Local Government Permitting for Pipeline Digs & Franchise Agreements
5. WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update
6. Results of Committee Assignment on Public Awareness
7. Items for the Next Agenda

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. The April 20, 2004 minutes were approved as written.
2. **Public Comment** – Katie Hansen, Coordinator for the Washington State City County Pipeline Safety Consortium, notified the committee that she is resigning from her position as coordinator effective June 30th. Ms. Hansen stated that she still plans to stay involved in pipeline safety issues.  
On another note, Ms. Hansen informed the committee about the conferences that the Consortium will be hosting on the issue of land use and development as it pertains to pipelines. The meetings will be held throughout the state and will bring together city, state and county land management staff and planners. The meetings are scheduled as followed:

August 12, 2004	Spokane
August 13, 2004	Pasco
August 17, 2004	Bellevue
August 18, 2004	Vancouver

More details and the exact location of the meetings will be posted to the Consortium website at a future date.
3. **Report on OPS Controller Certification** – Committee member Rick Kuprewicz updated the committee on the Controller Certification for operators of System Control Acquisition Data Analysis (SCADA) systems. The requirement comes from the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, Section 13(b). The major influence behind this effort is the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) observation that since 1996, 8 of 12 pipeline failures have appeared to be SCADA influenced. Mr. Kuprewicz is a member of a focus group that was formed by OPS that is comprised of industry, regulators, researchers, and the public. As defined by the law, OPS must:
  - ?? Develop tests and other requirements for certifying qualifications of pipeline control room operators
  - ?? Carry out pilot program for 3 pipeline facilities
  - ?? Issue a report
  - ?? Do all of this within a 36-Month time frameMr. Kuprewicz brought this item to the committee's attention so that they could give feedback to OPS. (Note: training is only one small part of the SCADA failure equation). He also pointed out that OPS is considering a local distribution company as one of the pilots. The question that Mr. Kuprewicz raised for the committee is: Should the focus be restricted to transmission pipelines?  
Mr. Kuprewicz received good feedback from committee members at the meeting and asked for further comments to be sent to him by e-mail. The Committee asked Mr. Kuprewicz to draft a letter to OPS on this issue for the committee's review, approval and issuance.
4. **Local Government Permitting for Pipeline Digs & Franchise Agreements** – This issue was brought to the committee's attention because of the construction issues sometimes faced by pipeline companies in performing repair digs.

From the municipal perspective, every underground utility within their right-of-way must have an up-to-date franchise agreement with a city and/or county it runs through to conduct business. If there is not a franchise agreement, the city or county may not be willing to issue permits for the utility to do repairs. In the case of Olympic Pipeline, the company must sometimes conduct digs to do repairs on the pipeline. Some cities that do not have an updated franchise agreement with the pipeline company won't issue these permits because of liability reasons.

No action was taken on this issue. It was raised as a discussion item for awareness.

5. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update** – Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, gave an update on the current events in the pipeline safety section.

**Williams Pipeline – Amended Corrective Action Order (CAO) Update:**

Williams has completed the hydrostatic testing of all 26" pipeline segments that they wish to return to service as provided for in the CAO. Over 50 pipeline segments were tested with one failure. The failure occurred on May 5th in the Sumas to Mt. Vernon segment. Cause of the failure was determined to be stress corrosion cracking (SCC). The failed section was repaired and the segment successfully retested.

The 15.9-mile segment between Mt. Vernon and Snohomish has been returned to service along with a 17-mile segment between Battleground and Washougal. OPS have also very recently authorized a return to service of a 45-mile segment between Chehalis and Ft. Lewis. The segment of hydrostatically tested line between Sumas and Mt. Vernon has not yet been submitted to OPS/WUTC for review.

Williams anticipates making application to FERC for a capacity replacement program this fall. Their preliminary plan calls for replacing the 268 miles of 26-inch pipeline with approximately 80 miles of 36-inch pipeline. A series of "open houses" for local residents and other interested parties are scheduled in late June and July from Bellingham to Yelm.

**BP Olympic Update:**

On Sunday, May 23rd at approximately 8:00 am, a leak and resulting fire at the Olympic Pipeline Renton facility caused a shutdown of the company's pipeline system. A pinhole-size leak originated in a small diameter stainless steel sampling line which runs a few feet from the 16-inch main to a product sampling building. Approximately 1,550 gallons of unleaded regular gasoline escaped but remained on pipeline property. WUTC staff was on-site by 9:30 am. The fire was extinguished around 11:00 am, but the leak continued until about 5:30 pm. The failed section of sample line is undergoing metallurgical analysis and the findings have not yet been released.

**WUTC Natural Gas Safety Rulemaking**

The notice of proposed rulemaking (CR-102) is scheduled to be heard at an open meeting before the Commission on June 30th. A public comment period then opens again with an adoption hearing tentatively scheduled for the end of October.

### Staffing Changes

David Lykken has been appointed Acting Senior Engineer with the Pipeline Safety Section. He replaces Kim West who has taken a part-time position to accommodate more time at home with her family.

### Geographic Information System (GIS) Update

The Pipeline Safety Section has completed a series of meetings with first responders around the state to verify that our GIS development is in line with their expectations. Generally, the responses were positive with some recommended changes. We also learned the desire of first responders relative to service delivery, i.e. hard copy maps, digital GIS or electronic PDF. Meetings will now be scheduled with pipeline companies to illustrate our status and next steps.

### JLARC Follow-Up Review

The Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee has scheduled a meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> to be briefed (in part) on a staff follow-up to June 2003 findings of JLARC. WUTC gave Committee staff a written update on our progress in March and the staff report says, "While these actions to date fall short of fully implementing JLARC's June 2003 recommendations, the WUTC has made some progress in addressing JLARC's concerns". WUTC Staff Sondra Walsh and Alan Rathbun plan to attend the JLARC briefing in SeaTac.

6. **Results of Committee Assignment on Public Awareness** – At the April 20, 2004 meeting, committee members were asked by WUTC staff to complete an assignment. The assignment consisted of four questions:
1. What sort of information is important for citizens living near a transmission pipeline?
  2. What do you need to know about the operation of a pipeline that goes through your neighborhood?
  3. In order to have confidence in the safety of a pipeline in your neighborhood, what sort of safety record information would you need?
  4. As a neighbor to a transmission pipeline, what sort of operational changes in this pipeline should be reported to you?

Nine committee members contributed to the survey (and one non-committee member, Katie Hansen). A summary of the survey was distributed to committee members at the meeting. The committee will review the summary document. Action on the assignment will be discussed at a future meeting, as it relates to the committee's goal of public awareness of pipelines.

7. **Items for the Next Agenda** – The committee requested the following items to be on the next agenda:
- a) Update on the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Pipeline incident cause.
  - b) Information on Alan Rathbun's and committee member Don Evan's meeting with L & I staff on the issue assisting with damage prevention.